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and uninteresting persons, and are prolix and tedious. But as Dr. Carlyle gains practice in writing and proceeds to speak of names more familiar to Cisatlantic readers, his reminiscences grow in interest, while his style becomes less obnoxious to criticism. At the time of the Porteous Mob he was a student in Edinburgh and was an involuntary witness of that memorable affair; at a little later period he joined the Volunteers raised to defend Edinburgh, and was present at the battle of Preston Pans, though he took no part in it; and at other times he participated in various celebrated transactions. Of all these he has given full accounts, and his Autobiography must be regarded as an important contribution to Scotch history, as well as an entertaining collection of curious anecdotes. The volume has been edited with much ability by Mr. John Hill Burton, author of the *Life of Hume* and of a *History of Scotland* of established reputation, who has added a Supplementary Chapter, completing the record of Dr. Carlyle's life.

Dean Ramsay's *Reminiscences* formed the subject of a lecture prepared by him in 1850 for delivery to a miscellaneous audience in Edinburgh. The lecture was received with so much favor by his hearers, that the writer was induced to print it, and in successive editions it has grown to its present size by the addition of new matter in further illustration of the original design. In respect to style it is much superior to Dr. Carlyle's volume, and it is scarcely less rich in amusing and characteristic anecdotes. Dean Ramsay had not only a copious body of personal recollections, but his friends and correspondents in different parts of Scotland have furnished much material of which he has made a very judicious use. The chapter illustrative of "Religious Feelings and Religious Observances," in particular, is singularly rich and suggestive, and some of the anecdotes in the chapter on "The Old Scottish Domestic Servant" are also very good. Most of the anecdotes in the volume are new to us, and nearly all are worth printing.

10. — *The Home-Life of English Ladies in the Seventeenth Century.*

By the Author of "Magdalen Stafford." London: Bell and Daldy. 1860. 12mo. pp. 350.

THIS unpretending little volume comprises five sketches designed to present "a picture of the ordinary interests and pursuits of English ladies" in the seventeenth century. Among the women whose lives are selected to illustrate the picture are Mrs. Evelyn, Mrs. Godolphin, Lady Mary Boyle, afterward Countess of Warwick, Mrs. Baxter, and Anne, Countess of Dorset and Pembroke. Beside these women, whose

lives and characters are well known to every person acquainted with the literature of that memorable period, several others of lesser note are also sketched; and copious extracts are given from their letters and other contemporary records. In the preparation of her volume the writer has apparently aimed at little more than to bring together in a convenient form, from numerous but easily accessible sources, a series of lives of Englishwomen noted for their piety or their learning; she has made no original researches; and she has added nothing to the information which we already possessed as to the topics discussed by her. But her volume is written with modesty and good sense, and though she has restricted her view to a single phase of character, and has made little or no mention of some of the most admirable women of that period, her sketches may be read with pleasure and profit. It would have been very easy to make a much better book,—one more graceful in style, with a wider range of interest, and less didactic in tone; but in default of such a record of the domestic life of the seventeenth century not a few readers will gratefully accept that which is here proffered to them.

11. — *Personal History of Lord Bacon. From Unpublished Papers.*

By WILLIAM HEPWORTH DIXON, of the Inner Temple. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1861. 12mo. pp. xix. and 424.

MR. DIXON'S previous contributions to biographical literature have been marked by laborious research, and also by an evident wish to present the subjects of his memoirs in the most favorable light possible; and the same characteristics are equally conspicuous in his latest work. From the rich treasures of the State Paper Office, Lambeth Palace, and other depositories of original documents, he has drawn much important inedited material to illustrate the public and private life of Bacon, and to justify his estimate of Bacon's character; and for these precious memorials of a great man he will receive the gratitude of every reader. He has done not a little to remove from Bacon's memory the load of obloquy which has rested on it for nearly two centuries and a half; he has poured new light on the obscure parts of Bacon's career; he has rectified the mistakes of previous writers; and he has shown that in many particulars the common judgment of Bacon is erroneous. But from the want of a judicial habit of mind in Mr. Dixon, and from his persistent hero-worship, it was to be anticipated that he would be an advocate and a partisan, and that it would be needful to scrutinize his statements with more than ordinary care. Nor are